
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Year End Report 2025-2026

The Professional Associations Coordinating Committee (PACC) is a group of dedicated leaders who endeavour to support professional learning and member engagement across subject and professional areas. There are now 21 professional associations of the NSTU.

Committee Members:

Meghan MacNeil, Chair – SPAA

Dionne Reid- BETA

Stephen Corbett SSTA

Theresa Jennings, ATEC

Leisje Spires, NSLTA

Erin Mullen, CTEANS

NSTU Staff:

Amanda O'Regan-Marchand - PACC Staff Liaison

Peter Murphy - Provincial Executive Liaison

Meeting Dates

November 28, 2025 (in-person/zoom option)

February 6, 2025 (virtual)

June 12, 2025 (in-person/zoom option)

Summary of Committee Activities

Professional Associations Leaders' Conference

PACC hosted the Professional Associations Leadership Conference (PALC) on November 28th-29th (in-person). On Friday evening, participants engaged in team building and problem-solving activities facilitated by Craig Clarke. Attendees learned how to maximize their potential to overcome challenges using their unique skills and talents in the face of limitations and scarce resources. Saturday morning saw Table Talks with the following topics and facilitators: Conference Updates and Feedback with Amanda, Constitutions, Operational Procedures, and Resolutions with Louis Robitaille, Professional Boundaries with Sandra Murray, Treasurer Updates and Best Practices with Melanie and New Outcomes on Gender Based Violence with representatives of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

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PA Support

PACC members reach out to the Professional Association Presidents prior to each PACC meeting to gather any feedback and support PA operations. Online “Fireside Chats” are ongoing covering topics appropriate for all PA Executive Members related to October Conference planning and Annual Council.

Proposal for a New PA

PACC members reviewed a proposal for a new Professional Association focusing on structured literacy. After thoughtful debate, PACC ultimately recommended the proposal be declined by the Provincial Executive due to overlapping content with existing PAs, and concerns about the sustainability of the PA's mandate with the evolving ELA curriculum.

Council Resolutions Reviewed

2026-53 (Pre-C) Action

Professional Development

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU survey the membership on the current delivery of the NSTU October Conference Day.

Cumberland Local

Brief:

The current format of the NSTU October Conference Day has been unchanged for many years. Some members express concerns around inequities that exist in the current delivery. These include geographical location, financial payment before the event, content of conference sessions, number of spaces for all NSTU members, time of registration opening, registration platform, etc. Members should be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the current state of the NSTU October Conference.

2026-54 (Pre-C) Action

Professional Development

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU investigate options to build capacity for satellite and virtual participation in the annual October Conference Day, to improve accessibility for teachers living outside the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE).

Cape Breton District Local

Brief:

For many teachers across Nova Scotia, attending October Conference Day in HRM area presents increasing financial and logistical challenges. Hotel availability, rising hotel costs, travel expenses, and childcare needs make participation difficult, particularly for those living several hours away who must travel after a full workday. By exploring and learning from successful satellite and virtual models already in practice, such as the ATA's conference in Sydney, the NSTU can identify practical strategies to broaden participation and reduce barriers. This approach will promote equitable access to high-quality professional learning opportunities for all members, regardless of geographic location. This approach aligns with the NSTU's commitment to supporting all members and ensuring that professional development opportunities are inclusive and accessible, regardless of geographic location.

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2026-55 (Pre-C) Action

Professional Development

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU investigate ways to support Professional Associations in offering virtual options for members to attend October Conference.

Colchester East Hants Local

Brief:

Membership has requested that more virtual options be available on Provincial Conference Day. Travel costs for families and members have increased significantly and, in many cases, are no longer covered by existing article 60 reimbursement rates. In addition, some members face physical and/or environmental challenges that require occupational support available only in their workplaces. If the NSTU were able to support Professional Associations by providing easier access to streaming services, software, video production, and related tools, Professional Associations could extend their reach and better serve their members.

Goals or Plans for Next Year

- Continue to increase PA capacities to meet the professional development needs of NSTU members by supporting Annual PA Conference planning and operational efficiency, increasing virtual and hybrid conference options, and increasing attendance capacity.
- Continuing to provide PAs the opportunity to build skills and professional networks that optimize PA operations and Annual PA Conference planning

Budget

<u>PACC</u>	<u>2,015.17\$</u>	<u>2,550.00\$</u>	<u>79.03%</u>
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Acknowledgements

PACC would like to acknowledge the support of NSTU Staff:

Janice MacKenzie for her support with October Conference registration, PA websites and email, and other technical and logistical support.

Melanie Waye for financial advice, support and information, reports for executive meetings, and prompt consideration of professional associations' needs.

Amanda O'Regan-Marchand, Staff Liaison, for staff support, meetings, minutes, and focus/ themes for discussion and PALC conference organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan MacNeil